

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-06 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 FRB-03

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COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 5569

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD - SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS ON COMMODITIES

REF: (A) GENEVA 5306, (B) GENEVA 5182, (C) GENEVA 4848

1. SUMMARY: SECRETARY GENERAL COREA (ASSISTED BY COMMODITY DIV. CHIEF CHIDZERO) AGAIN MET WITH MEMBERS OF GROUP B IN GENEVA TO REVIEW HIS THINKING ON THE SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIONS ON COMMODITIES ISSUES RESULTING FROM NAIROBI RESOLUTION 93(IV). ALTHOUGH HE LABELLED HIS PROPOSALS AS STILL TENTATIVE, HE WAS MORE SPECIFIC THIS TIME AND INDICATED, BARRING UNFORESEEN EVENTS, HE WOULD BE ISSUING A NOTE VERBALE WITHIN A WEEK OR SO GIVING HIS IDEAS TO ALL MEMBER STATES OF UNCTAD. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL COREA OF UNCTAD, IN THE PRESENCE
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OF AND ASSISTED BY CHIDZERO, CHIEF OF THE COMMODITY DIVISION,

AGAIN MET WITH MEMBERS OF GROUP B TO REVIEW HIS THINKING ON THE SCHEDULING OF COMMODITIES CONSULTATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 1976. HE WAS, THIS TIME, MUCH MORE SPECIFIC, OBVIOUSLY RESPONDING TO THE VERY APPARENT UNHAPPINESS OF GROUP B COUNTRIES TO THE EXTREME VAGUENESS OF HIS LAST APPEARANCE. WHILE HE CHARACTERIZED HIS THOUGHTS AS PRELIMINARY, HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD BE ISSUING A NOTE VERBALE TO ALL UNCTAD MEMBERS WITHIN A WEEK OR SO GIVING HIS FINAL PLANS. ANY CHANGES WOULD BE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF HIS CONTINUING CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER COMMODITY FORA OR STRONG OBJECTIONS OF GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS.

3. THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

SEPT 27 - OCT 1 FIRST CONSULTATION ON COPPER.

OCT 5 - 22 TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD - ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC COORDINATION COMMITTEE, ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE.

OCT 25 - 30 JUTE - FIRST CONSULTATION.

NOV 15 - 19 TUNGSTEN - REGULARLY SCHEDULED TENTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON TUNGSTEN.

NOV 22 - 26 AD HOC COORDINATION COMMITTEE - FIRST MEETING.

NOV (ONE WEEK, NO EXACT TIME SET) COMMON FUND - FIRST CONSULTATION.

DEC 6 - 10 HARD FIBERS - FIRST CONSULTATION.

DEC 13 - 17 RUBBER - FIRST CONSULTATION.

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN GENEVA.

4. COPPER - SYG COREA SAID THAT CONSULTATION HAD NOT BEEN HELD WITH ANYONE ON THE SCHEDULING OF THE COPPER CONSULTATIONS SINCE THERE WAS NO EXISTING COPPER FORUM. HE HAD TALKED WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CIPEC, BUT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MERELY TO ADVISE HIM OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S THINKING. HE CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE THE SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 1 UNCTAD MEETING ON COPPER DECIDE ITSELF WHAT TO DO ABOUT COMBINING THE NAIROBI RESOLUTION ON THE CONSUMER CONSULTATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COPPER FORUM. HE HAS SCHEDULED THE COPPER CONSULTATIONS FIRST SINCE THERE ALREADY EXISTED A REQUEST FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND SINCE CONSIDERABLE MOMENTUM FOR A

PRODUCER/CONSUMER DIALOGUE HAD ALREADY BEEN BUILT BY THE MARCH MEETING.

5. AD HOC COORDINATING COMMITTEE - WHILE COREA CONSIDERED THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THEORETICALLY BEST IF ALL CONSULTATIONS HAD BEEN DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COORDINATING COMMITTEE, HE NOTED THAT RESOLUTION 93(IV) ITSELF CALLED FOR INITIATING THE CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 1 AND THAT THE AD HOC COMMITTEE MIGHT BENEFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM THE INITIAL CONSULTATIONS. HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE EITHER DURING THE TDB OR IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS SINCE THERE WOULD BE NO TIME TO PREPARE FOR SUCH A MEETING WITHOUT KNOWING IN ADVANCE THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE THE BOARD MIGHT ADOPT. EITHER THE BOARD OR THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ITSELF WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE ON THE PATTERN OF MEETINGS FOR THE FUTURE, BUT THAT HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD MAINTAIN "FLEXIBILITY OF TIMING" TO PERMIT IT TO MEET AS REQUIRED, INDICATING THAT THE RECONVENING OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE COULD BE DONE EITHER BY THE BOARD, THE COMMITTEE ITSELF, OR AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE SYG AS CONDITIONS WARRANTED.

6. JUTE AND HARD FIBERS - THE DATES FOR THE CONSULTATION ON JUTE AND HARD FIBERS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FAO SECRETARIAT AND THAT AN AGREEMENT HAD BEEN WORKED OUT FOR JOINT PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTATION BY FAO/UNCTAD, SUBJECT ONLY TO APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE HEADS OF BOTH AGENCIES. IT HAD BEEN DECIDED TO SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS ON THESE TWO COMMODITIES EARLY BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME IMPORTANCE OF THESE PRODUCTS TO CERTAIN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND IN THAT IT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE THE SUBJECT OF AS GREAT INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONTROVERSIES AS OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

7. COMMON FUND - COREA INDICATED THAT WHILE HE HAD CONSIDERED AN EARLIER MEETING FOR THE CONSULTATIONS ON THE COMMON FUND, HE TENDED NOW TOWARDS HOLDING THE MEETING IN NOVEMBER, BUT HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED HIS THOUGHTS WITH THE G-77, WHO WERE PRESSING FOR AN EARLIER DATE. HE DID NOT HAVE AT THIS POINT ANY IDEA OF HOW MANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WOULD HAVE TO BE SCHEDULED ON THE COMMON FUND PRIOR TO THE MARCH 1977 DATE FOR THE OPENING OF THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE, BUT NOTED THAT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS STATEMENT ISSUED AT NAIROBI CONTEMPLATED A TOTAL OF THREE WEEKS. HE STILL VIEWED THE

FIRST CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUND AS BASICALLY ORGANIZATIONAL, ALTHOUGH THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE ISSUING DOCUMENTATION ADDRESSING THE POINTS CONTAINED IN PARA 2 OF SECTION IV OF RESOLUTION 93(IV). HE DID NOT NOW PROFESS TO KNOW HOW THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE HANDLED SINCE HE DID NOT KNOW IN WHAT FORM THE GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS WOULD BE RECEIVED - SOME MIGHT SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE SECRETARIAT ONLY, AND SOME MIGHT WANT THEIR PROPOSALS PUBLISHED IN FULL. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT MIGHT SUMMARIZE THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED BY TYPES OF SUGGESTIONS MADE WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY MAKING THE PROPOSAL.

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8. RUBBER - COREA STATED HE HAD RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE IRSG IN WHICH THERE HAD BEEN NO AGREEMENT WITH THE DATES PROPOSED. HOWEVER, DUNCAN RIDLER (DEP CHIEF COMMODITIES DIV) WAS PRESENTLY IN LONDON DISCUSSING THE

PLANS FOR THE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE IRSG. HE FELT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PREPARATION OF THE RUBBER PRODUCERS WERE SUFFICIENTLY ADVANCED SO AS TO PERMIT THE PLACING OF RUBBER ON THE UNCTAD LIST FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS WITH A BETTER CHANCE FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING THAN MANY OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SUCH AS MEAT, BANANAS OR TEA.

9. DOCUMENTATION FOR CONSULTATIONS - CHIDZERO, CHIEF OF COMMODITIES DIV., INDICATED THAT THE SECRETARIAT WOULD BE ISSUING DOCUMENTATION FOR THE INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES CONSULTATIONS ADDRESSING PRIMARILY POINTS CONTAINED IN SUB-PARAS 4(A), (B), AND (C) OF SECTION IV OF THE RESOLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LUTION WITH "ACTION ORIENTED" PROPOSALS. SUGGESTIONS FOR DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS (SUB-PARA 4(D)) HE FELT WOULD BEST BE DRAWN UP BY GOVERNMENTS THEMSELVES.

10. RECRUITING OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL. COREA INDICATED THAT UNHQ NEW YORK HAD BEEN HELPFUL IN FINDING WAYS FOR UNCTAD TO MEET ITS ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL OF ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATE REQUEST BY THE 5TH COMMITTEE OF THE UNGA. HE FELT THAT TWO TYPES OF PERSONNEL WERE NEEDED, I.E., COMMODITY EXPERTS AND PERSONS MORE OF A DIPLOMATIC CHARACTER TO VISIT GOVERNMENTS TO EXPLAIN TO THE AUTHORITIES THE PROBLEMS OF THE CONSULTATIONS AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS. HE STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHEN RECRUITING WOULD START SINCE THE SECRETARIAT WAS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DRAWING UP THE JOB SPECIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, HE FELT THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE TIME TO RECRUIT IN THE NORMAL MANNER THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF JOB NOTIFICATIONS, BUT RATHER THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE TO "SCOUT OUT" APPROPRIATE PEOPLE AND "ROPE THEM IN", A PROCESS HE FELT WOULD BE MADE DIFFICULT SINCE THE SECRETARIAT COULD ONLY OFFER VERY SHORT-TERM APPOINTMENTS PRIOR TO UNGA ACTION ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST. DALE

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